

Ryan Taylor  
AP Literature and Composition  
Composition: Explication  
15 January 2010

### **6.8 Dashes**

MY SENTENCE: The mystery of death has haunted the collective human consciousness for so long for a simple reason - there is no right answer.

EXPLANATION: Use a dash to indicate an abrupt break in thought or speech, or to mean “namely,” “in other words,” or “that is” before an explanation. I found my information in the *Holt Handbook* on page 384.

REVISED SENTENCE: The mystery of death has haunted the collective human consciousness for so long for a simple reason;\_there is no right answer.

ORIGINAL EXAMPLE: I don't know, but one of the teachers – his name is Mr. Jones – should be able to answer your question.

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### **9.3 Active and Passive Voice**

MY SENTENCE: The rhymes in "Is My Team Plowing" act to enhance different parts of the poem's diction and tone by subtly adding meaning, weight, and a feeling of flow to the words.

EXPLANATION: Choosing between the active and passive voice is a matter of style, not correctness. In general, however, the passive voice is less direct, less forceful, and less concise than the active voice. In fact, the passive voice may produce an awkward effect. I found the information in the *Holt Handbook* on page 213-214.

REVISED SENTENCE: "Is My Team Plowing" uses rhymes to enhance different parts of the poem's diction and tone by subtly adding meaning, weight, and a feeling of flow to the words.

ORIGINAL EXAMPLE: Jim finished his homework.

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### **10.1 Ambiguous Reference**

MY SENTENCE: This everyman viewpoint appeals to a wider variety of people, helping to make the text's message understandable to them.

EXPLANATION: An ambiguous reference occurs when any one of two or more words could be a pronoun's antecedent. I found the information in the *Holt Handbook* on page 163.

REVISED SENTENCE: This everyman viewpoint appeals to a wider variety of people, helping to make the text's message understandable to a wider audience.

ORIGINAL EXAMPLE: As soon as Fred came back with Jim, we asked him what happened.